

7/31/2007 12:22:34 PM - Email Acknowledgement sent to jlcrawford@gtcc.mailcruiser.com.

jlcrawford@gtcc.mailcruiser.com wrote on 7/19/2007 9:29:25 AM:

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AUG 22 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a hearing person and use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with other deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service. The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- \* Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- \* Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities
- \* Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services

I, along with other hearing and deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Jimmy L. Crawford Jr.

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List ABCDE

7/31/2007 12:22:03 PM - Email Acknowledgement sent to roro2001@tmail.com.

roro2001@tmail.com wrote on 7/12/2007 1:17:33 AM :

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you.  
--roro2001

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

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nandansuli@comcast.net wrote on 7/17/2007 3:25:34 PM :

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a hearing person and use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with other deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

As a person who has worked with the Deaf Community for the past 30 years, it is clear to me how VRS access has improved the quality of life for many individuals who would otherwise have no access to the phone services people who can hear take for granted. It has allowed many Deaf individuals the independence to take care of business via phone, contact services for themselves, their children and/or parents without relying on another person.

I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities - Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met

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Thank you.

Nancy D. Sullivan MA/CSC

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Office of the Secretary

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7/31/2007 12:22:13 PM - Email Acknowledgement sent to sitcomkid@comcast.net.

sitcomkid@comcast.net wrote on 7/14/2007 9:21:38 AM :

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Please do not continue to cut the reimbursement rate for video relay services. The need for continued funding is critical for a number of reasons.

Most importantly, video relay has allowed people who use American sign language to achieve previously unparalleled access to the telecommunications service. For people who use sign language, video relay provides the closer dialtone equivalent. Business people are less likely to hang up the telephone when they don't have to speak slowly and wait their turn. Deaf community members are thrilled to finally use their own language in a telephone call. And it's just getting started. Cutting the budget would nip things right in the bud.

Outreach and research need continued funding because, unlike with text relay services, video relay services represent new technology. At the time text relay was created, telecommunications devices such as the TTY had existed for about 30 years and the telephone itself had existed for over a hundred years. At the time video relay was created, WebCams and high-speed Internet were much younger and far less established. The technology is still in its infancy but is developing at a rapid rate. Continued funding will maintain this growth.

Continued funding for labor and other costs of doing the general day-to-day business of relay is also critical for the continued success of video relay to serve the signing deaf community. Labor costs are high not only because sign language interpreters have specialized skills and are in short supply, but also because there is a lower occupancy rate per working shift among sign language interpreters because the nature of their work requires them to take frequent and/or longer breaks than employees in the text relay service. (A safe work environment must be maintained in the face of a very popular service and a short supply of employees on the front line. Although TTY relay service operators also incur the risk of repetitive strain, interpreters have to work with their arms up and can therefore interpret fewer minutes per shift on average than a skilled typist.)

Respectfully submitted by

Risa Orellana

sitcomkid@Comcast.net <mailto:sitcomkid@Comcast.net>

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

CG Docket No. 03-123

8/10/2007 12:29:02 PM - Email Acknowledgement sent to gtralan@gmail.com.

gtralan@gmail.com wrote on 8/9/2007 11:52:11 PM :

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a hearing person and use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with other deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other hearing and Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

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I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you.  
Alan Wismer  
77 Windover Lane  
Doylestown, Pa 18901

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AUG 22 2007

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

8/10/2007 12:29:40 PM - Email Acknowledgement sent to director@afthi.org.

director@afthi.org wrote on 8/9/2007 2:56:19 PM :

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am a hearing person who uses VRS to communicate with deaf clients. In my estimation, the VRS providers are being over-compensated for this service. As a tax payer, I would like to ask the FCC to cut the rate.

I would be happy to share my experiences with you about how I have been endlessly courted by competing VRS services, and I only have one videophone. Sprint, in fact, trained me to be a sales representative for their huge "Switch to Sprint" campaign. I would have been able to bill Sprint for my services at the rate of \$25 per hour and I would have received a \$500 Blackberry device as a bonus after getting 10 Sorenson customers to switch to Sprint as their VRS provider of choice. I did not end up working for Sprint in this capacity, but it tells me that there is much money to be made in VRS.

Please consider the tax payer as you review the methodology for reimbursing VRS providers. These big companies have scared the Deaf community into thinking that the FCC is going to abolish VRS completely. Please be mindful that much of the mail you have received from members of the Deaf community is a reaction to this mis-information campaign.

Please feel free to contact me if I may provide you with more information about my experiences as a VRS user.

Thank you,  
Brooke Newell

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